

Susan M. Collins
S.L.C.

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To stabilize individual market premiums and provide meaningful State flexibility.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

H.R. 1625

To a **AMENDMENT N^o 2216** et of
By Collins rsons
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AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

- 1 In division H, after section 229, insert the following:
- 2 **SEC. 230. WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION; COST-SHAR-**
- 3 **ING PAYMENTS.**
- 4 (a) WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION.—
- 5 (1) STREAMLINING THE STATE APPLICATION
- 6 PROCESS.—Section 1332 of the Patient Protection
- 7 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) is
- 8 amended—

Collins
Alexander
Graham
Rovent
Munkowski
Isakson
McConnell

2

1 (A) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by striking
2 “the law” and inserting “a law or has in effect
3 a certification”; and

4 (B) in subsection (b)(2)—

5 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
6 serting “OR CERTIFY” after “LAW”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (I) by striking “A law” and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(i) LAWS.—A law”; and

11 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(ii) CERTIFICATIONS.—A certifi-
14 cation described in this paragraph is a doc-
15 ument, signed by the Governor of the
16 State, that certifies that such Governor
17 has the authority under existing Federal
18 and State law to take action under this
19 section, including implementation of the
20 State plan under subsection (a)(1)(B).”;
21 and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
24 by striking “OF OPT OUT”; and

1 (II) by striking “may repeal a
2 law” and all that follows through the
3 period at the end and inserting the
4 following: “may terminate the author-
5 ity provided under the waiver with re-
6 spect to the State by—

7 “(i) repealing a law described in sub-
8 paragraph (A)(i); or

9 “(ii) terminating a certification de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii), through a
11 certification for such termination signed by
12 the Governor of the State.”.

13 (2) GIVING STATES MORE FUNDING FLEXI-
14 BILITY, TO ESTABLISH REINSURANCE, INVISIBLE
15 HIGH RISK POOLS, INSURANCE STABILITY FUNDS
16 AND OTHER PROGRAMS.—

17 (A) STATE GRANTS UNDER WAIVERS.—
18 Section 1332(a) of the Patient Protection and
19 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052(a)) is
20 amended—

21 (i) in paragraph (3)—

22 (I) in the first sentence—

23 (aa) by inserting “or would
24 qualify for a reduced portion of”
25 after “would not qualify for”;

1 (bb) by inserting “, or the
2 State would not qualify for or
3 would qualify for a reduced por-
4 tion of basic health program
5 funds under section 1331,” after
6 “subtitle E”;

7 (cc) by inserting “, or basic
8 health program funds the State
9 would have received,” after “this
10 title”; and

11 (dd) by inserting “or for im-
12 plementing the basic health pro-
13 gram established under section
14 1331” before the period;

15 (II) in the second sentence, by
16 inserting before the period “, and with
17 respect to participation in the basic
18 health program and funds provided to
19 such other States under section
20 1331”; and

21 (III) by adding after the second
22 sentence the following: “A State may
23 request that all of, or any portion of,
24 such aggregate amount of such cred-
25 its, reductions, or funds be paid to the

1 State as described in the first sen-
2 tence.”;

3 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (4),
4 (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and
5 (7), respectively; and

6 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (3)
7 the following:

8 “(4) FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INVISIBLE HIGH-
9 RISK POOL AND REINSURANCE PROGRAMS.—

10 “(A) ALLOCATIONS.—Not later than 45
11 days after the date of enactment of the Depart-
12 ment of Health and Human Services Appro-
13 priations Act, 2018, the Secretary, in consulta-
14 tion with the National Association of Insurance
15 Commissioners, shall specify an allocation
16 methodology for determining the amount of
17 funds appropriated under section 230(a)(2)(B)
18 of the Department of Health and Human Serv-
19 ices Appropriations Act, 2018 for a fiscal year
20 to be allocated for each State for purposes of
21 subparagraph (B) and section 230(a)(2)(C) of
22 the Department of Health and Human Services
23 Appropriations Act, 2018.

24 “(B) STATE GRANTS.—From amounts ap-
25 propriated under section 230(a)(2)(B) of the

1 Department of Health and Human Services Ap-
2 propriations Act, 2018 for a fiscal year, the
3 Secretary shall award grants to States for each
4 of fiscal years 2018 through 2021, in amounts
5 determined in accordance with the allocation
6 methodology under subparagraph (A), for the
7 following purposes:

8 “(i) For fiscal year 2018, for adminis-
9 trative costs of the State associated with
10 preparing and submitting information de-
11 scribed in subsection (a)(1)(B) that in-
12 cludes an invisible high-risk pool or rein-
13 surance program that meets the require-
14 ments of subsection (g)(2), or costs associ-
15 ated with the establishment of such invis-
16 ible high-risk pool or reinsurance program.

17 “(ii) For each of fiscal years 2019,
18 2020, and 2021, for the establishment or
19 maintenance of invisible high-risk pools
20 and reinsurance programs that meet the
21 requirements of subsection (g)(2) and for
22 which the State has received a waiver
23 under this section.

24 “(C) BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—Funds
25 awarded to a State under a grant awarded

1 under subparagraph (B) shall not be taken into
2 account for purposes of determining under
3 paragraph (1) whether the State waiver is
4 budget neutral, or determining under subsection
5 (b)(1) whether the State waiver increases the
6 Federal deficit.”.

7 (B) APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—There are author-
9 ized to be appropriated, and there are ap-
10 propriated, to the Secretary of Health and
11 Human Services, for the purposes de-
12 scribed in section 1332(a)(4)(B) of the Pa-
13 tient Protection and Affordable Care Act
14 and subparagraph (C), out of any funds in
15 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

16 (I) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2018; and

18 (II) \$10,000,000,000 for each of
19 fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

20 (ii) AVAILABLE UNTIL EXPENDED.—
21 Amounts appropriated under this para-
22 graph shall remain available until ex-
23 pended.

24 (C) DEFAULT FEDERAL SAFEGUARD.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
2 plan year 2019, in the case of a State that
3 does not, by a date specified by the Sec-
4 retary of Health and Human Services (re-
5 ferred to in this paragraph as the “Sec-
6 retary”), in consultation with the National
7 Association of Insurance Commissioners,
8 have in effect a waiver under section 1332
9 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
10 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) that includes
11 an invisible high-risk pool or reinsurance
12 program that meets the requirements of
13 subsection (g)(2) of such section 1332, the
14 Secretary shall, from amounts appro-
15 priated under subparagraph (B), use the
16 allocation determined for the State under
17 subsection (a)(4)(B) of such section 1332
18 for plan year 2019 for the purpose de-
19 scribed in clause (ii) for such State.

20 (ii) REQUIRED USE FOR MARKET STA-
21 BILIZATION PAYMENTS TO ISSUERS.—The
22 Secretary shall use any allocation for a
23 State made pursuant to clause (i) to pro-
24 vide incentives to appropriate entities to
25 enter into arrangements with the State to

1 help stabilize premiums for health insur-
2 ance coverage in the individual market in
3 such State by providing payments to such
4 appropriate entities using payment param-
5 eters and a methodology determined by the
6 Secretary.

7 (3) ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS TO MORE
8 FLEXIBLE HEALTH PLANS.—Section 1332 of the Pa-
9 tient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
10 18052) is amended—

11 (A) in subsection (b)—

12 (i) in paragraph (1)—

13 (I) in subparagraph (B), by
14 striking “at least as affordable” and
15 inserting “of comparable affordability,
16 including for low-income individuals,
17 individuals with serious health needs,
18 and other vulnerable populations,”;
19 and

20 (II) by amending subparagraph

21 (D) to read as follows:

22 “(D)(i) will not increase the Federal deficit
23 over the term of the waiver; and

1 “(ii) will not increase the Federal deficit
2 over the term of the 10-year budget plan sub-
3 mitted under subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii).”;

4 (ii) by redesignating paragraph (2)
5 (as amended by paragraph (1)) as para-
6 graph (3); and

7 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (1)
8 the following:

9 “(2) BUDGETARY EFFECT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining wheth-
11 er a State plan submitted under subsection (a)
12 meets the deficit neutrality requirements of
13 paragraph (1)(D), the Secretary may take into
14 consideration the direct budgetary effect of the
15 provisions of such plan on sources of Federal
16 funding other than the funding described in
17 subsection (a)(3).

18 “(B) LIMITATION.—A determination made
19 by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)—

20 “(i) shall not be construed to affect
21 any waiver process or standards or terms
22 and conditions in effect on the date of en-
23 actment of the Department of Health and
24 Human Services Appropriations Act, 2018
25 under title XI, XVIII, XIX, or XXI of the

1 Social Security Act, or any other Federal
2 law relating to the provision of health care
3 items or services; and

4 “(ii) shall be made without regard to
5 any changes in policy with respect to any
6 waiver process or provision of health care
7 items or services described in clause (i).”;
8 and

9 (B) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by striking
10 “subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection
11 (b)(3)”.

12 (4) PROVIDING EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF
13 STATE WAIVERS.—Section 1332(d) of the Patient
14 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
15 18052(d)) is amended—

16 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “180”
17 and inserting “120”; and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(3) EXPEDITED DETERMINATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any
21 application under subsection (a)(1) submitted
22 on or after the date of enactment of the De-
23 partment of Health and Human Services Ap-
24 propriations Act, 2018 or any such application
25 submitted prior to such date of enactment and

1 under review by the Secretary on such date of
2 enactment, the Secretary shall make a deter-
3 mination on such application, using the criteria
4 for approval otherwise applicable under this sec-
5 tion, not later than 45 days after the receipt of
6 such application, and shall allow the public no-
7 tice and comment at the State and Federal lev-
8 els described under subsection (a)(5) to occur
9 concurrently if such State application—

10 “(i) is submitted in response to an ur-
11 gent situation, with respect to areas in the
12 State that the Secretary determines are at
13 risk for excessive premium increases or
14 having no health plans offered in the appli-
15 cable health insurance market for the cur-
16 rent or following plan year;

17 “(ii) is for a waiver that is the same
18 or substantially similar to a waiver that
19 the Secretary already has approved for an-
20 other State; or

21 “(iii) is for a waiver that includes an
22 invisible high-risk pool or reinsurance pro-
23 gram described in subparagraph (A), (B),
24 or (D) of subsection (g)(2).

25 “(B) APPROVAL.—

1 “(i) URGENT SITUATIONS.—

2 “(I) PROVISIONAL APPROVAL.—A
3 waiver approved under the expedited
4 determination process under subpara-
5 graph (A)(i) shall be in effect for a
6 period of 3 years, unless the State re-
7 quests a shorter duration.

8 “(II) FULL APPROVAL.—Subject
9 to the requirements for approval oth-
10 erwise applicable under this section,
11 not later than 1 year before the expi-
12 ration of a provisional waiver period
13 described in subclause (I) with respect
14 to an application described in sub-
15 paragraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall
16 make a determination on whether to
17 extend the approval of such waiver for
18 the full term of the waiver requested
19 by the State, for a total approval pe-
20 riod not to exceed 6 years. The Sec-
21 retary may request additional infor-
22 mation as the Secretary determines
23 appropriate to make such determina-
24 tion.

1 “(ii) APPROVAL OF SAME OR SIMILAR
2 APPLICATIONS.—An approval of a waiver
3 under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be subject
4 to the terms of subsection (e).

5 “(C) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 5 years
6 after the date of enactment of the Department
7 of Health and Human Services Appropriations
8 Act, 2018, the Comptroller General of the
9 United States shall conduct a review of all
10 waivers approved pursuant to subparagraph
11 (A)(ii) to evaluate whether such waivers met
12 the requirements of subsection (b)(1) and
13 whether the applications should have qualified
14 for such expedited process.”.

15 (5) PROVIDING CERTAINTY FOR STATE-BASED
16 REFORMS.—Section 1332(e) of the Patient Protec-
17 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052(e))
18 is amended by striking “No waiver” and all that fol-
19 lows through the period at the end and inserting the
20 following: “A waiver under this section—

21 “(1) shall be in effect for a period of 6 years
22 unless the State requests a shorter duration;

23 “(2) may be renewed, subject to the State meet-
24 ing the criteria for approval otherwise applicable

1 under this section, for unlimited additional 6-year
2 periods upon application by the State; and

3 “(3) may not be suspended or terminated, in
4 whole or in part, by the Secretary at any time before
5 the date of expiration of the waiver period (including
6 any renewal period under paragraph (2)), unless the
7 Secretary determines that the State materially failed
8 to comply with the terms and conditions of the waiv-
9 er.”.

10 (6) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—Section
11 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) is amended—

13 (A) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(f) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to carrying
16 out this section, the Secretary shall—

17 “(A) issue guidance, not later than 60
18 days after the date of enactment of the Depart-
19 ment of Health and Human Services Appro-
20 priations Act, 2018, that includes initial exam-
21 ples of model State plans that meet the require-
22 ments for approval under this section; and

23 “(B) periodically review the guidance
24 issued under subparagraph (A) and when ap-
25 propriate, issue additional examples of model

1 State plans that meet the requirements for ap-
2 proval under this section, which may include—

3 “(i) State plans establishing reinsur-
4 ance or invisible high-risk pool arrange-
5 ments for purposes of covering the cost of
6 high-risk individuals;

7 “(ii) State plans expanding insurer
8 participation, access to affordable health
9 plans, network adequacy, and health plan
10 options over the entire applicable health in-
11 surance market in the State;

12 “(iii) waivers encouraging or requiring
13 health plans in such State to deploy value-
14 based insurance designs which structure
15 enrollee cost-sharing and other health plan
16 design elements to encourage enrollees to
17 consume high-value clinical services;

18 “(iv) State plans allowing for signifi-
19 cant variation in health plan benefit de-
20 sign; or

21 “(v) any other State plan as the Sec-
22 retary determines appropriate.

23 “(2) RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS REGULATIONS
24 AND GUIDANCE.—Beginning on the date of enact-
25 ment of the Department of Health and Human

1 Services Appropriations Act, 2018, the regulations
2 promulgated, and the guidance issued, under this
3 section prior to the date of enactment of the Depart-
4 ment of Health and Human Services Appropriations
5 Act, 2018 shall have no force or effect.”; and

6 (B) in subsection (a)(5) (as redesignated
7 by paragraph (2)(A)(ii))—

8 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
9 “, as applicable” before the period; and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
11 “Not later than 180 days after the date of
12 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall”
13 and inserting “The Secretary may”.

14 (7) INVISIBLE HIGH RISK POOLS AND REINSUR-
15 ANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 1332 of the Patient Pro-
16 tection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052),
17 as amended by paragraph (6), is further amended by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(g) INVISIBLE HIGH RISK POOLS AND REINSUR-
20 ANCE PROGRAMS.—

21 “(1) FUNDING.—With respect to a State that
22 has received a waiver under this section to establish
23 an invisible high-risk pool or reinsurance program
24 described in paragraph (2), the State may fund such

1 program, in whole or in part, using one or both of
2 the following:

3 “(A) Amounts received through a grant de-
4 scribed in subsection (a)(4)(B).

5 “(B) All of, or a portion of, the payments
6 made to the State as described in subsection
7 (a)(3), consistent with the information the
8 State provides under subsection (a)(1)(B).

9 “(2) PROGRAM DESIGN.—An invisible high-risk
10 pool or reinsurance program described in this para-
11 graph is a program that meets any of the following:

12 “(A) An invisible high-risk pool, as defined
13 by the State, under which health insurance
14 issuers, with respect to designated individuals
15 who experience higher than average health costs
16 as determined by the State, and are enrolled in
17 health insurance coverage offered in the indi-
18 vidual market, cede risk to the pool, without af-
19 fecting the premium paid by the designated in-
20 dividuals or their terms of coverage. With re-
21 spect to such pool, the State, or an entity oper-
22 ating the pool on behalf of the State, shall es-
23 tablish—

24 “(i) the premium amount the ceding
25 issuer shall pay to the reinsurance pool;

1 “(ii) the applicable attachment points
2 or coinsurance percentages if the ceding
3 issuer retains any portion of the risk under
4 ceded policies; and

“(iii) the mechanism by which high-risk individuals are designated for cession to the pool, which may include a list of designated high-cost health conditions.

9 “(B) A reinsurance program, as defined by
10 the State, that assumes a portion of the risk for
11 individuals who experience higher than average
12 health costs as determined by the State, in a
13 manner substantially similar to the reinsurance
14 program that operated in the State in accord-
15 ance with section 1341.

16 “(C) A reinsurance program established by
17 the State not otherwise described in this para-
18 graph.

19 “(D) A program based on another State’s
20 reinsurance program—

21 “(i) described in subparagraph (A),
22 (B), or (C), for which an application has
23 been approved under this subsection; or

24 “(ii) which was implemented prior to
25 September 1, 2017, and which the Sec-

1 retary determines meets the requirements
2 of subparagraph (A).”.

3 (8) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
4 by this Act to section 1332 of the Patient Protection
5 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052)—

6 (A) with respect to applications for waivers
7 under such section 1332 submitted after the
8 date of enactment of this Act and applications
9 for such waivers submitted prior to such date of
10 enactment and under review by the Secretary
11 on the date of enactment, shall take effect on
12 the date of enactment of this Act; and

13 (B) with respect to applications for waivers
14 approved under such section 1332 before the
15 date of enactment of this Act, shall not require
16 reconsideration of whether such applications
17 meet the requirements of such section 1332, ex-
18 cept that, at the request of a State, the Sec-
19 retary shall recalculate the amount of funding
20 provided under subsection (a)(3) of such sec-
21 tion.

22 (9) CLARIFYING BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—Sec-
23 tion 1332(a)(1)(B) of the Patient Protection and Af-
24 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052(a)(1)(B)) is
25 amended—

1 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including,
2 as applicable, a description of the State’s plan
3 to use any amounts awarded to the State under
4 paragraph (4) to support an invisible high-risk
5 pool or reinsurance program consistent with
6 subsection (g) and such information about such
7 program as the Secretary may require” before
8 the semicolon; and

9 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “over both
10 the term of the proposed waiver and the term
11 of the 10-year budget plan” after “Govern-
12 ment”.

13 (b) COST-SHARING PAYMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated to the
15 Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred
16 to in this section as the “Secretary”), out of any
17 funds in the Treasury not otherwise obligated, such
18 sums as may be necessary for payments for cost-
19 sharing reductions, as authorized by section 1402 of
20 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
21 U.S.C. 18071) for the portion of plan year 2017
22 that begins on October 1, 2017, and ends on Decem-
23 ber 31, 2017, and for plan years 2019, 2020, and
24 2021.

1 (2) SPECIAL RULES FOR COST-SHARING REDUC-
2 TIONS.—

3 (A) BASIC HEALTH PLAN.—For plan year
4 2018, there is appropriated to the Secretary,
5 out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise
6 obligated, such sums as may be necessary for,
7 with respect to States that have in effect a
8 basic health plan on January 1, 2018, the por-
9 tion of transfers pursuant to section 1331(d) of
10 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 18051(d)) attributable to the cost-
12 sharing reductions under section 1402 of the
13 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
14 U.S.C. 18071) that would have been provided
15 for plan year 2018 with respect to eligible indi-
16 viduals enrolled in standard health plans in
17 such States.

18 (B) HOLD HARMLESS.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—For plan year
20 2018, there is appropriated to the Sec-
21 retary, out of any funds in the Treasury
22 not otherwise obligated, such sums as may
23 be necessary for payments for cost-sharing
24 reductions authorized by section 1402 of
25 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care

1 Act (42 U.S.C. 18071) with respect to
2 qualified health plans described in clause
3 (ii).

4 (ii) QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS DE-
5 SCRIBED.—A qualified health plan de-
6 scribed in this clause is a qualified health
7 plan for which the Secretary determines,
8 based on a certification and appropriate
9 documentation from the issuer of such
10 plan and a certification from the applicable
11 State regulator, that the health insurance
12 issuer of such plan has not increased pre-
13 mium rates for plan year 2018 on account
14 of the issuer assuming, or being instructed
15 by applicable State regulators to assume,
16 that the issuer would receive payments
17 under such section 1402.

18 (C) CLARIFICATION OF OBLIGATIONS.—

19 (i) NO REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE PAY-
20 MENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
21 sion of law, there shall be no obligation
22 under this Act or any other Act, including
23 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
24 Act (Public Law 111-148), to make pay-
25 ments for cost-sharing reductions under

1 section 1402(c)(3) of the Patient Protec-
2 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
3 18071(c)(3)) or advance payments for such
4 cost-sharing reductions under section 1412
5 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
6 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18082) for plan year
7 2018, except for such payments for which
8 amounts are appropriated under subpara-
9 graphs (A) and (B). Nothing in this clause
10 shall be construed as affecting the require-
11 ments under section 1402 of the Patient
12 Protection and Affordable Care Act for
13 issuers to reduce cost-sharing.

14 (ii) NO OBLIGATION TO RECONCILE
15 PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other
16 provision of law, there shall be no obliga-
17 tion under this Act or any other Act, in-
18 cluding the Patient Protection and Afford-
19 able Care Act (Public Law 111-148), to
20 make payments on or after October 1,
21 2017, for the purpose of reconciling any
22 cost-sharing reduction payments by the
23 Secretary under section 1402(c)(3) of the
24 Patient Protection and Affordable Care
25 Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(c)(3)) made for plan

1 year 2016 or the plan year beginning Jan-
2 uary 1, 2017, through September 30,
3 2017.

4 (D) TREATMENT OF PREVIOUS PAY-
5 MENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
6 of law, payments made for cost-sharing reduc-
7 tions under section 1402 of the Patient Protec-
8 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
9 18071) during the period beginning on January
10 1, 2014, and ending on September 30, 2017,
11 shall be treated in the same manner as a refund
12 due from the credit allowed under section 36B
13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the
14 purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United
15 States Code.

16 (c) HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE.—Notwith-
17 standing any other provision of law, including any other
18 definition of “health benefits coverage” for purposes of
19 subsection (b) and (c) of section 506, any use made of
20 funds appropriated under subsection (b) starting in plan
21 year 2019, and subsection (a)(2)(B) starting in plan year
22 2018, and any program, activity, plan, or coverage funded
23 or supported by such funds, shall constitute “health bene-
24 fits coverage”.

25 (d) LIMITATIONS.—The following shall apply:

1 (1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
2 limit the applicability of subsection (a), (b), or (d)
3 of section 507.

4 (2) For purposes of this section, a health insur-
5 ance issuer expending State, local, or private funds,
6 shall be treated in the same manner as a managed
7 care provider described in section 507(c).

8 **SEC. 231. ALLOWING ALL INDIVIDUALS PURCHASING**
9 **HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE INDIVIDUAL**
10 **MARKET THE OPTION TO PURCHASE A**
11 **LOWER PREMIUM COPPER PLAN.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1302(e) of the Patient
13 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(e))
14 is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) of
17 subparagraph (B) as subparagraphs (A) and
18 (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins ac-
19 cordingly;

20 (B) by striking “plan year if—” and all
21 that follows through “the plan provides—” and
22 inserting “plan year if the plan provides—”;
23 and

1 (C) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated
2 by paragraph (1), by striking “clause (ii)” and
3 inserting “subparagraph (B)”;
4 (2) by striking paragraph (2); and
5 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
6 graph (2).

7 (b) RISK POOLS.—Section 1312(c)(1) of the Patient
8 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(c))
9 is amended by inserting “and including enrollees in cata-
10 strophic plans described in section 1302(e)” after “Ex-
11 change”.

12 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
13 1312(d)(3)(C) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
14 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(d)(3)(C)) is amended by strik-
15 ing “, except that in the case of a catastrophic plan de-
16 scribed in section 1302(e), a qualified individual may en-
17 roll in the plan only if the individual is eligible to enroll
18 in the plan under section 1302(e)(2)”.

19 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall apply with respect to
21 plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

22 **SEC. 232. CONSUMER OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND ASSIST-**
23 **ANCE.**

24 (a) OPEN ENROLLMENT REPORTS.—For plan years
25 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-

ices (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, shall issue biweekly public reports during the annual open enrollment period on the performance of the Federal Exchange and the Small Business Health Operations Program (SHOP) Marketplace. Each such report shall include a summary, including information on a State-by-State basis where available, of—

- (1) the number of unique website visits;
 - (2) the number of individuals who create an account;
 - (3) the number of calls to the call center;
 - (4) the average wait time for callers contacting the call center;
 - (5) the number of individuals who enroll in a qualified health plan; and
 - (6) the percentage of individuals who enroll in a qualified health plan through each of—
 - (A) the website;
 - (B) the call center;
 - (C) navigators;
 - (D) agents and brokers;
 - (E) the enrollment assistant program;
 - (F) directly from issuers or web brokers;
- and

1 (G) other means.

2 (b) OPEN ENROLLMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT.—

3 For plan years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary, in coordina-
4 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary
5 of Labor, shall publish an after action report not later
6 than 3 months after the completion of the annual open
7 enrollment period regarding the performance of the Fed-
8 eral Exchange and the Small Business Health Options
9 Program (SHOP) Marketplace for the applicable plan
10 year. Each such report shall include a summary, including
11 information on a State-by-State basis where available,
12 of—

13 (1) the open enrollment data reported under
14 subsection (a) for the entirety of the enrollment pe-
15 riod; and

16 (2) activities related to patient navigators de-
17 scribed in section 1311(i) of the Patient Protection
18 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(i)), in-
19 cluding—

20 (A) the performance objectives established
21 by the Secretary for such patient navigators;

22 (B) the number of consumers enrolled by
23 such a patient navigator;

24 (C) an assessment of how such patient
25 navigators have met established performance

1 metrics, including a detailed list of all patient
2 navigators, funding received by patient naviga-
3 tors, and whether established performance ob-
4 jectives of patient navigators were met; and

5 (D) with respect to the performance objec-
6 tives described in subparagraph (A)—

7 (i) whether such objectives assess the
8 full scope of patient navigator responsibil-
9 ities, including general education, plan se-
10 lection, and determination of eligibility for
11 tax credits, cost-sharing reductions, or
12 other coverage;

13 (ii) how the Secretary worked with pa-
14 tient navigators to establish such objec-
15 tives; and

16 (iii) how the Secretary adjusted such
17 objectives for case complexity and other
18 contextual factors.

19 (c) REPORT ON ADVERTISING AND CONSUMER OUT-
20 REACH.—Not later than 3 months after the completion of
21 the annual open enrollment period for the 2019 plan year,
22 the Secretary shall issue a report on advertising and out-
23 reach to consumers for the open enrollment period for the
24 2019 plan year. Such report shall include a description
25 of—

1 (1) the division of spending on individual adver-
2 tising platforms, including television and radio ad-
3 vertisements and digital media, to raise consumer
4 awareness of open enrollment;

5 (2) the division of spending on individual out-
6 reach platforms, including email and text messages,
7 to raise consumer awareness of open enrollment; and

8 (3) whether the Secretary conducted targeted
9 outreach to specific demographic groups and geo-
10 graphic areas.

11 (d) OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES.—

12 (1) OPEN ENROLLMENT.—Of the amounts col-
13 lected through the user fees on participating health
14 insurance issuers pursuant to section 156.50 of title
15 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
16 regulations), the Secretary shall obligate
17 \$105,800,000 for outreach and enrollment activities
18 for each of the open enrollment periods for plan
19 years 2019 and 2020.

20 (2) OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT ACTIVI-
21 TIES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
23 subsection, the term “outreach and enrollment
24 activities” means—

1 (i) activities to educate consumers
2 about coverage options or to encourage
3 consumers to enroll in or maintain health
4 insurance coverage (excluding allocations
5 to the call center for the Federal Ex-
6 change); and

7 (ii) activities conducted by an in-per-
8 son consumer assistance program that does
9 not have a conflict of interest and that,
10 among other activities, facilitates enroll-
11 ment of individuals through the Federal
12 Exchange, and distributes fair and impar-
13 tial information concerning enrollment
14 through such Exchange and the availability
15 of tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

16 (B) CONNECTION WITH FEDERAL EX-
17 CHANGE.—Activities conducted under this sub-
18 section shall be in connection with the operation
19 of the Federal Exchange, to provide special
20 benefits to health insurance issuers partici-
21 pating in the Federal Exchange.

22 (3) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
23 may contract with a State to conduct outreach and
24 enrollment activities for plan years 2019 and 2020.
25 Any outreach and enrollment activities conducted by

1 a State or other entity at the direction of the State,
2 in accordance with such a contract, shall be treated
3 as Federal activities to provide special benefits to
4 participating health insurance issuers consistent
5 with OMB Circular No. A-25R.

6 (4) CLARIFICATIONS.—

7 (A) PRIOR FUNDING.—Nothing in this
8 subsection should be construed as rescinding or
9 cancelling any funds already obligated on the
10 date of enactment of this Act for outreach and
11 enrollment activities for plan year 2019.

12 (B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.—The
13 Secretary shall ensure that outreach and enroll-
14 ment activities are conducted in all applicable
15 States, including, as necessary, by providing for
16 such activities through contracts described in
17 paragraph (3).

18 **SEC. 233. OFFERING HEALTH PLANS IN MORE THAN ONE**
19 **STATE.**

20 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
21 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
22 in consultation with the National Association of Insurance
23 Commissioners, shall issue regulations for the implemen-
24 tation of health care choice compacts established under
25 section 1333 of the Patient Protection and Affordable

1 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18053) to allow for the offering of
2 health plans in more than one State.

3 **SEC. 234. CONSUMER NOTIFICATION.**

4 In addition to any applicable Federal requirements
5 with respect to short-term limited duration insurance, a
6 State insurance commissioner shall require the issuer of
7 short-term, limited duration insurance approved for sale
8 in the State to display prominently in marketing mate-
9 rials, the contract, and application materials provided in
10 connection with enrollment in such insurance a notice to
11 consumers that includes such information as the State in-
12 surance commissioner determines sufficient to inform the
13 individual that coverage and benefits under such insurance
14 differ from coverage and benefits under qualified health
15 plans.